IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0015] beginning at page 3, line 10, with the following paragraph:

"According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an encoding apparatus including: a first soft encoder performing a first soft encoding <u>intended for use in a decoding device</u> to correct errors <u>to recover originally first encoded</u>~~in~~ input data and outputting first soft-encoded data; and a second soft encoder receiving the first soft-encoded data, performing a second soft encoding <u>intended for use in a decoding device</u> to determine a success or failure <u>during decoding</u>~~of the encoding~~ of the first soft-encoded data, and outputting second soft-encoded data."

Please REPLACE paragraph [0022] beginning at page 4, line 20 with the following paragraph:

"According to still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an encoding and decoding apparatus including: a first soft encoder performing a first soft encoding <u>intended for use in a decoding device</u> of input data to correct errors <u>to recover originally first encoded</u>~~in the~~ input data and outputting first soft-encoded data; a second soft encoder receiving the first soft-encoded data, performing a second soft encoding <u>intended for use in a decoding device</u> to determine a success or failure <u>during decoding</u>~~of the encoding~~ of the first soft-encoded data, and outputting second soft-encoded data; a transmission channel; a first soft decoder soft-decoding data input through the transmission channel and corresponding to the second soft encoding, and outputting first soft-decoded data; and a second soft decoder receiving the first soft-decoded data, soft-decoding the first soft-decoded data corresponding to the first soft encoding, and outputting second soft-decoded data and additional information indicating the success or failure of the decoding of the first soft-decoded data."

Please replace paragraph [0023] beginning at page 5, line 1 with the following paragraph:

"According to still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an encoding method including: performing a first soft encoding <u>intended for use in a decoding device</u> of input data to correct errors <u>to recover originally first encoded</u>in the input data and outputting first soft-encoded data; receiving the first soft-encoded data; performing a second soft encoding <u>intended for use in a decoding device</u> to determine a success or failure <u>during decoding</u>of the encoding of the first soft-encoded data; and outputting second soft-decoded data.

Please replace paragraph [0025] beginning at page 5, line 12 with the following paragraph:

"According to still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an encoding and decoding method including: performing a first soft encoding <u>intended for use in a decoding device</u> of input data to correct errors <u>to recover originally first encoded</u>in the input data and outputting first soft-encoded data; performing a second soft encoding <u>intended for use in a decoding device</u> to determine a success or failure <u>during decoding</u>of the encoding of the first soft-encoded data; soft-decoding data input through a transmission channel, wherein the soft-decoding corresponds to the second soft-encoding; soft-decoding the first soft-decoded data corresponding to the first soft-encoding; and outputting second soft-decoded data and additional information indicating the success or failure of the decoding of the first soft-decoded data."

Please replace paragraph [0042] beginning at page 10, line 10 with the following paragraph:

"The present invention may be embodied as a program stored on a computer readable medium that can be run on a general computer. Here, the computer readable medium includes but is not limited to storage media such as magnetic storage media (e.g., ROM's, floppy disks, hard disks, etc.), <u>and</u> optically readable media (e.g., CD-ROMs, DVDs, etc.), and carrier waves (e.g., transmission over the Internet). The present invention may also be embodied as a computer readable program code unit stored on a computer readable medium, for causing a number of computer systems connected via a network to affect distributed processing.